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ALBANIA. 12 Mar.—Trade Agreement (*see Czechoslovakia*).

ARGENTINA. 3 Mar.—Dr Ares, Secretary of State for Economic Affairs and leader of the delegation negotiating a trade pact with Britain, told a press conference that he was pressing to obtain restoration of sterling convertibility. The £70 million blocked in London, if convertible, would be sufficient to repay the U.S. credits in default.

4 Mar.—A British official spokesman said that Britain could contemplate neither sterling convertibility nor payment for meat with dollars. Non-fulfilment of the Miranda agreement owing to inconvertibility would be *force majeure*.

All the leading newspapers reappeared for the first time since the printers' strike began on 8 February.

10 Mar.—At a military officers' luncheon attended by President Peron and his wife at Campo de Mayo, Gen. Molina, Minister of War, made a speech denying rumours that the Army was at variance with the President.

15 Mar.—Señor Morales, Secretary of Finance, announced the partial lifting of the import ban imposed on 1 February.

16 Mar.—President Peron took the oath of allegiance to the new Constitution, whose chief change was the eligibility of the President for re-election.

AUSTRALIA. 3 Mar.—Dr Evatt in Rome (*see Italy*).

4 Mar.—Dr Evatt in London (*see Great Britain*).

Mr Sharkey, General Secretary of the Communist Party, pledged the working class to support the U.S.S.R. if 'in the pursuit of aggressors' Soviet troops entered the country.

12 Mar.—Dr Evatt's article on the Commonwealth (*see Great Britain*).

14 Mar.—Lord Listowel, British Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, arrived on a visit to discuss 'matters arising from the meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers in October'.

*Pacific Defence.* Mr Dedman, Minister of Defence, stated in Canberra that discussions were going on for the 'conclusion of a Pacific regional defence pact embracing non-British as well as British countries'. Britain had taken an active part in the talks.

16 Mar.—The Prime Minister, Mr Chifley, received Lord Listowel.

AUSTRIA. 3 Mar.—Discussions on peace treaty (*see Council of Foreign Ministers*).

9 Mar.—A statement issued by the Ministry of the Interior accused the Hungarian military authorities of trying to induce Austrian officials and police to act as spies in the British Zone.

BELGIUM. 6 Mar.—It was learned that the executive of the Communist Party had announced that in the event of war the Communists would not support the forces opposing the U.S.S.R.

**BENELUX. 13 Mar.**—A four-day conference at the Hague attended by the Prime Ministers and other Ministers of Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg, ended in agreement that the three countries should enter into provisional economic union on 1 July 1949 and full economic union a year later. It was agreed that the three Governments should pursue a co-ordinated policy of free production, distribution, and consumption of goods, as well as of abolishing subsidies in order to remove the obstacles which these measures constituted to the free exchange of goods. Belgium and Luxembourg were prepared to grant the Netherlands adequate credits, on the understanding that the amount of such credits should be continually adjusted to the measures taken by the Netherlands for the decontrol of trade. Social policy, wage policy, and investment policy would be co-ordinated as far as possible and unification of excise duties would be completed. Dr Drees, the Dutch Prime Minister, stated that finance had been one of the most difficult problems, as imports into the Netherlands from Belgium and Luxembourg were far greater than exports from the Netherlands to those countries. A ministerial committee would be set up to supervise the co-ordination of external trade and monetary policy.

**BULGARIA. 8 Mar.**—The President of the court trying the fifteen Church leaders announced that the four chief accused—pastors Ziapkopf, Ivanov, Naumov, and Chernev—had been sentenced to life imprisonment and confiscation of property. Nine others had been sentenced to terms varying from five to fifteen years, and two were freed after sentence of one year had been commuted. Several of the accused were heavily fined.

**11 Mar.**—The Government received a Note from the British Government declaring that statements made by the defendants in the recent trial about alleged activities of the British Legation were completely false. Certain obvious misrepresentations rendered suspect the whole of the testimony, and the trials had served to convince the British Government that religious freedom in eastern Europe was under deliberate attack and further that the Bulgarian Government had no intention of fulfilling their obligations under the Peace Treaty to guarantee the fundamental freedom of their people.

**13 Mar.**—The Government were reported to have requested the British Government to recall Mr Greenhill, First Secretary of the British Legation, whose name had been mentioned in connection with the chief accused in the recent trial.

**16 Mar.**—British and U.S. statements on treaty violations (*see Great Britain and United States*).

**BURMA. 4 Mar.**—Commenting on a statement made at the recent Delhi Conference (*see p. 145*) an official spokesman said that the Government were not contemplating rejoining the British Commonwealth.

**7 Mar.**—A Government communiqué claimed the recapture of Myitnge and said that the rebels had launched counter attacks at Maymyo.

BURMA (*continued*)

7 Mar.—Negative reply to Delhi proposals (*see Great Britain*).

10 Mar.—The Government announced that Maymyo had been re-occupied by the rebels.

11 Mar.—The British Embassy announced that most of the British citizens in Maymyo had been evacuated to Rangoon.

12 Mar.—Karen forces entered Mandalay.

13 Mar.—A Government communiqué said that a Government counter-offensive at Mandalay had met with stiff resistance. Reinforcements had been sent to the Toungoo sector where Karens were advancing northward along the railway line.

The Ambassador to Pakistan said in Karachi that the Government would welcome foreign aid. It was not true that the Karens were a bulwark against Communism; in various towns attacked by the rebels the Karens had been the 'staunchest henchmen' of the Communists.

14 Mar.—The Government agreed to offer the Karens a separate State within the Union. They also offered an amnesty to the rebels, except those guilty of rape, dacoity, and murder, if they surrendered their arms before 31 March. The ultimate surrender date for the rebels at Insein was put at 17 March.

A report reaching Singapore said that the air force now consisted of one Spitfire and one pilot, with a stock of 500 lb. bombs from which the rebels had removed the fuses. At least two Karen battalions had joined the rebels. Gen. Smith Dun, the Commander-in-Chief, had had his 'sick leave' extended for a further three months.

15 Mar.—The Prime Minister, Thakin Nu, broadcast an appeal to the rebels to accept the Government's offer of an amnesty.

The evacuation of British personnel from Maymyo was completed.

16 Mar.—A Government communiqué said that Communists and Karens were in complete control of Mandalay. Government forces had beaten back a rebel attack on navy gunboats in the Maubin district, inflicting 200 casualties.

CANADA. 3 Mar.—*North Atlantic Defence*. Mr Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced that the Government had received a copy of the draft treaty and that they found it satisfactory in substance.

11 Mar.—*Commonwealth*. Mr St Laurent, Prime Minister, received Sir Norman Brook, Secretary of the British Cabinet, who had arrived in Ottawa for discussions arising from the October meeting of Commonwealth Premiers. The meeting was attended by Mr Pearson and Sir Alexander Clutterbuck, British High Commissioner.

The annual report of the Foreign Exchange Control Board showed that holdings of gold and U.S. dollars at the end of 1948 amounted to \$997,800,000, an increase of \$496 million in twelve months. Fifty per cent of commodity exports in 1948 went to the U.S.A., compared with 39 per cent in 1947, and 33 per cent went to the sterling area, compared with 41 per cent in the previous year. Mr Towers, Governor of the Bank of Canada, drew attention in the report to the adverse effect on Canadian

trade of the policy of the European countries benefiting under E.R.P. to divert their imports from dollar to non-dollar sources.

14 Mar.—*Defence.* Mr Abbott, Minister of Defence, told Parliament that the defence estimates for the next fiscal year amounted to nearly \$2,218 million, an increase of about 50 per cent over the current year, including a cash appropriation of \$375 million. A 'commitment authority' for a further sum exceeding \$211 million would be sought for planned expenditure beyond the fiscal year.

16 Mar.—*Pacific Defence.* Mr Pearson told Parliament that the Government had received no information on the suggested formation of a Pacific pact.

CHINA. 3 Mar.—Dr Sun Fo, Prime Minister, told the press in Nanking that the Government had appointed a committee to draft a peace plan.

Communist troops were reported to be attacking a bridgehead on the north bank of the Yangtze opposite Chinkiang.

5 Mar.—The editor of a Nanking newspaper was reported to have been arrested for publishing editorials calling on Gen. Chiang Kai-shek to cease interfering in Government affairs and to leave the country.

8 Mar.—Dr Sun Fo resigned.

10 Mar.—Gen. Ho Ying-chin, War Minister in the Kuomintang Government from 1930-44, was appointed Prime Minister.

15 Mar.—Gen. Ho Ying-chin told reporters on arrival at Nanking that peace talks would start soon.

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS. 3 Mar.—*Austrian Treaty.* In discussion on Slovene minority rights in Carinthia the western deputies made it clear that they thought the guarantees contained in the Austrian Constitution and those in Article 7 of the draft treaty were adequate, but that for the sake of conciliation they would be willing to include in the treaty certain specified minority rights and liberties. A letter was received from Dr Gruber, Austrian Foreign Minister, setting forth plebiscite census and election statistics to show that Yugoslavia in demanding frontier changes, proposed to shift a population against their declared will and in demanding an autonomous régime for the Slovenes in Carinthia was proposing to subject the majority to the rule of the minority.

8 Mar.—*Austrian Treaty.* The deputies considered a memorandum from M. Bebler, Yugoslav deputy Foreign Minister, who supported his claim for reparations by referring to the alleged failure of the programme of restitution of property removed from Yugoslavia to Austria during the war. Only \$16 million out of an estimated total of \$160 million worth had been returned. He further disputed the idea that Yugoslav claims could be met out of Austrian assets in Yugoslavia, declaring that these were worth only \$2 million. A proposal by the Soviet delegate to set up a committee to study the Yugoslav reparations claims in the light of the memorandum was opposed, as a matter of principle, by the western deputies.

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS (*continued*)

9 Mar.—*Austrian Treaty*. The deputies agreed to invite Dr Gruber and M. Bebler to meet them again.

10 Mar.—*Austrian Treaty*. M. Bebler and Dr Gruber appeared again before the deputies and reaffirmed their points of view, the latter adding that though his Government would not pay reparations they were prepared, for the sake of good relations, to make certain economic concessions to Yugoslavia.

14 Mar.—*Austrian Treaty*. The Soviet deputy refused to accept as a basis for discussion a paper prepared by the British deputy designed to safeguard the rights of the Slovene minority in Carinthia.

CYPRUS. 11 Mar.—A law was published empowering the Government to ban the export of arms.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA. 4 Mar.—Protocol to trade agreement with Germany (*see Germany*).

12 Mar.—It was announced that a trade agreement had been signed with Albania under which unspecified raw materials would be received in 1949 in exchange for machinery and consumer goods.

DENMARK. 4 Mar.—*North Atlantic Defence*. It was announced that the Government had decided to inform the U.S. Government that they had reviewed the country's position with regard to the proposed pact.

5 Mar.—At a labour conference held in Copenhagen by the Prime Ministers of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Iceland it was agreed that Nordic co-operation must be increased.

7 Mar.—*North Atlantic Defence*. M. Rasmussen, Foreign Minister, said in a speech to the Foreign Press Association that the main purpose of the Government's foreign policy was to preserve peace while maintaining freedom and independence. The only alternative to joining the proposed Atlantic Pact was complete isolation without military affiliations, which in present world conditions was unthinkable. The aims of the pact were exclusively peaceful and defensive; it was absurd to think that the Government would support a policy of aggression.

Invitation to conference on Council of Europe (*see Western Union*).

9 Mar.—M. Rasmussen left by air for Washington.

16 Mar.—Invitation to join the Atlantic Pact (*see United States*).

EGYPT. 7 Mar.—*Suez Canal*. A new agreement with the Suez Canal Company was signed in Cairo by Mamduh Riaz Bey, Minister of Commerce, and M. Charles Roux, President of the company's board of directors. Its provisions included the nomination of five new Egyptian directors to the board, an increase in the number of Egyptian employees, payment to the Government of 7 per cent of the company's gross profits with a guaranteed annual minimum of £E350,000, and company concessions regarding the development of Port Said and improvements to the Canal.



13 Mar.—Field-Marshal Slim, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, arrived at Fayid.

EIRE. 7 Mar.—Invitation to conference on Council of Europe (*see Western Union*).

11 Mar.—Loan agreement with the E.C.A. (*see United States*).

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION. 4 Mar.—The eight-Power Consultative Committee met in Paris. It consisted of M. Spaak (Belgium) who presided, Sir Stafford Cripps (Britain), M. Schuman (France), Signor Tremelloni (Italy), M. Stikker (Netherlands), M. Wigforss (Sweden), M. Burckhardt (Switzerland), and M. Sadak (Turkey).

8 Mar.—Resolutions published by the eight-Power committee to implement the Council's programme (*see p. 135*) included the following proposals: each member country should provide a report on its internal financial position by 1 May 1949; individual reports should also be submitted on the measures being taken to increase exports, and forecasts of each commodity would be studied to prevent overlapping; imports from the dollar area must be progressively reduced; an industrial consultative committee should be set up corresponding to the trade union advisory committee; production of food and agriculture, which accounted for 40 per cent of Europe's imports from the western hemisphere, must be increased; and tourist traffic must be developed.

FINLAND. 3 Mar.—It was learned that the Unions had declared that the Social Democratic and Communist newspapers would not be effected by the printers' strike.

4 Mar.—It was learned that the Minister of Social Affairs, M. Liljeström, had resigned and that the Foreign Minister, M. Enckell, had been ordered by his doctors to take two months sick leave.

6 Mar.—M. Fagerholm, Prime Minister, denied accusations which had appeared in the Soviet press that he wanted the country to join the proposed Atlantic Pact, and reaffirmed Finnish loyalty to the Fino-Soviet pact.

FRANCE. 3 Mar.—It was learned that stoppages and strikes in the northern coal fields had recently increased and that during the past few days many cases of supposed sabotage had been reported.

M. Schuman, Foreign Minister, and M. Petsche, Finance Minister, held discussions with Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer on the co-ordination of the French and British four-year plans.

It was announced that the eighth person arrested in the course of the anti-Communist campaign was M. Pelas, a Civil servant at the Atomic Energy commissariat.

4 Mar.—During an Assembly debate on defence M. Ramadier, Defence Minister, said that French security must be defended on the eastern frontier—on the Rhine and on the Elbe, as far as possible from national soil.

FRANCE (*continued*)

8 Mar.—*Indo-China*. An exchange of letters between the President, M. Vincent Auriol and the ex-Emperor Bao Dai defined the terms of the agreement of 23 February which provided for: the independence of Viet Nam 'within the framework of the French Union'; recognition of the unity of Annam, Tongking, and Cochín-China; administrative autonomy for Viet Nam together with the right, subject to the approval of the President, to exchange diplomatic representatives with certain countries and the right to have an army with French instructors. An 'army of the French Union' would have the right of free passage on Viet Nam territory; France would retain strategic bases, and the two armies would be co-ordinated by a liaison committee, which in war-time would become a general staff with a French head. French rights, including freedom for French education, would be safeguarded, and the piastre would be the sole legal currency, linked to the franc area. The agreement would come into force after the exchange of instruments between Bao Dai and the High Commissioner of Saigon. Bao Dai announced that he would return as head of the new State by 25 April.

9 Mar.—Sir Stafford Cripps left for London.

*Germany*. M. Schuman, Foreign Minister, told the foreign affairs committee of the National Assembly that 4,650,000 tons of Ruhr coal had been received in 1948 and between 7 and 8 million tons were expected in 1949. In reparations the country had received the equivalent of \$31,700,000 up to 31 December 1948.

10 Mar.—*North Atlantic Defence*. M. Auriol speaking at a press luncheon said that while the Government would never sign any but exclusively defensive pacts, the country had not the right to remain isolated while others grouped together.

11 Mar.—Gen. Giraud died.

12 Mar.—*Indo-China*. The National Assembly passed a Bill for the establishment of a Territorial Assembly in Cochín China with power to vote for or against the attachment of the *ky* to Viet Nam.

16 Mar.—*North Atlantic Defence*. The Council of Ministers approved the text of the pact.

Note on German prisoners (*see U.S.S.R.*).

GERMANY. 3 Mar.—The Soviet authorities in Berlin announced that they had ordered their blockaded repatriation mission in Frankfurt to leave the U.S. Zone. As a reprisal they had cancelled the permits of two U.S. search parties looking for war-graves in the Soviet Zone.

4 Mar.—Mr Attlee, British Prime Minister, arrived in Berlin for a short visit to inspect the air-lift.

Mr Douglas, the U.S. Ambassador in London, arrived at Wiesbaden.

It was learned that a Spanish Air Force mission has arrived in the U.S. Zone for an indefinite period.

The Soviet repatriation mission left Frankfurt.

The Parliamentary Council at Bonn appointed a special commission to consider the Military Governors' proposed amendments to the draft Constitution.



**Soviet Zone.** A protocol to the trade agreement with Czechoslovakia (see Vol. IV, p. 482) was signed, increasing the proposed volume of trade by \$25 million a year.

**War Crimes.** A U.S. review board announced, following investigations, that physical force had 'occasionally' been used to obtain statements from Germans during the 'Malmédy massacre' trials in 1946.

5 Mar.—Marshal Sokolovsky, Soviet Military Governor, wrote to the U.S. Military Governor, Gen. Clay, complaining that the Americans were impeding the return to the U.S.S.R. of Soviet property in the U.S. Zone stolen by the Nazis during the war. He turned down a U.S. suggestion that a Soviet Consulate should be opened to deal with the work and requested instead that the strength of the restitution missions in the U.S. Zone should be increased.

Mr Attlee inspected the Templehof and Gatow airfields and expressed his admiration for the air-lift. He later met some of the west Berlin City leaders including Prof. Reuter, Lord Mayor, and Dr Friedensburg, his deputy.

6 Mar.—Mr Attlee arrived at Lübeck in the British Zone and continued his inspection of air-lift bases.

Mr Douglas returned to London.

7 Mar.—Mr Attlee left by air for London.

Gen. Vandenberg, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, arrived at Wiesbaden for a tour of U.S. air bases.

9 Mar.—1949 Trade with Britain (see *Great Britain*). Mr Attlee's message on air lift (see *Great Britain*).

Leaders of the Ruhr miners, meeting at Essen, issued a warning that unless there was an immediate fall in the prices of food and other consumer goods it would be necessary to demand a general increase in wages.

It was learned that following negotiations between the British and Polish Red Cross, 776 repatriates from Poland, including 300 children, had arrived at Hanover. A statement issued by the Social Democratic Party claimed that there still remained hundreds of thousands of Germans in Poland, including 25,000 children.

**Berlin.** An 'anti-war-monger committee' in the eastern Sector accused Dr Reuter, Lord Mayor, and ten other leading west Berlin politicians of war-mongering and called for relevant evidence to be sent to their headquarters for submission to the public prosecutor.

10 Mar.—**Berlin.** Under a new order issued in the Soviet Sector and already in force in the Soviet Zone, any one found guilty of economic sabotage would be liable to up to fifteen years imprisonment or, in certain cases, death.

11 Mar.—Gen. Clay's reply to Marshal Sokolovsky's letter of 5 March which was published in Berlin stated that the same procedure had been applied to Soviet property in the U.S. Zone as to that of the fourteen other nations engaged in the restitution programme. Any further restitution work must be carried out by the Soviet military mission until the Russians were willing to agree to the setting up of Consulates in the U.S. and Soviet Zones on a reciprocal basis.

GERMANY (*continued*)

14 Mar.—*British Zone*. A military court sentenced a former member of the S.S. to six months' imprisonment for having distributed Nazi leaflets in Cologne calling on the people to hold out as the Führer was alive and would soon return.

*Espionage*. The U.S. military court in Munich sentenced three men and five women to terms of imprisonment ranging from one to eighteen years on charges of spying for the Czechoslovak Intelligence Service.

Anglo-French-U.S. discussions on reparations and prohibited industries (*see Great Britain*).

15 Mar.—*British Zone*. It was learned that the Military Government had decided that buildings from which reparations equipment had been removed might be used for heavy and mechanical engineering (except machine tools), electrical and transport engineering, and for the production of agricultural machinery and optical and precision instruments. This ruling would not apply to buildings containing 'obnoxious features' peculiar to war industries.

*Ruhr*. Representatives of metal workers' and miners' unions from France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxemburg, and Germany decided, at a conference in Luxemburg, to set up a joint trade union body to voice the workers' attitude to the future organization of the Ruhr before the occupation authorities.

*Espionage*. The U.S. military Court in Munich sentenced another woman to imprisonment.

16 Mar.—British, U.S., and French Notes on prisoners (*see U.S.S.R.*). 'Neutral' Committee's report on Berlin currency (*see Security Council*).

GREAT BRITAIN. 3 Mar.—Economic discussions with France (*see France*).

4 Mar.—Prime Minister in Berlin (*see Germany*).

Dr Evatt, Australian Minister for External Affairs, arrived in London.

6 Mar.—*Atomic Energy*. The Ministry of Supply announced the production of plutonium at the Harwell Research Centre.

7 Mar.—*Germany*. Mr McNeil, Minister of State, told the Commons in answer to a question, that proposals were being studied to organize British civilian members of the Control Commission for the temporary protection of British lives and premises in the event of civil disturbance until the armed forces could take over. Their duties would be of a static nature, small arms only would be carried, and training would be confined to the use of such weapons.

*Burma*. Mr McNeil stated in a Parliamentary written reply that the Burmese Government had returned a negative reply to recommendations made to them by the recent Delhi Conference (*see p. 145*).

Field-Marshal Slim in Trieste (*see Trieste*).

8 Mar.—Mr Attlee received Dr Evatt.

Mr Attlee and Mr Creech Jones, Secretary of State for the Colonies, held discussions with Lord Baldwin, Governor of the Leeward Islands.

*Commonwealth*. It was announced that Lord Listowel would shortly visit Australia and New Zealand for discussions on matters arising from

the October meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers. Similar visits would be paid by Mr Gordon-Walker, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Commonwealth Relations, to Pakistan, Ceylon, and India; by Sir Percivale Liesching, Permanent Under-Secretary for Commonwealth Relations, to South Africa; and by Sir Norman Brook, Secretary of the Cabinet, to Canada.

9 *Mar.—Germany.* Mr Attlee sent a message to Gen. Robertson, British Military Governor, and another to the Commander-in-Chief of the British Air Forces of occupation congratulating all concerned on the success of the air lift and predicting 'an increasing flow of supplies as long as the blockade makes it necessary'.

*West Indies.* Mr Creech Jones told Parliament that he had been disturbed by the absence of adequate reports on the industrial and administrative situation in the Leeward Islands. These matters had been fully discussed with the Governor, Lord Baldwin, who would shortly return to resume his duties.

Mr Attlee and Mr Bevin received Dr Evatt.

Trade discussions begun on 1 March in London between a British delegation and a delegation representing the three western Zones of Germany concluded that during the first six months of 1949 western Germany's imports from the sterling area would be about £30 million compared with £21 million for the whole of 1948—while exports to the sterling area would be about £22 million compared with £26 million for the whole of 1948.

Field-Marshal Slim in Athens (*see Greece*).

11 *Mar.—European Recovery Programme.* The second report—for the fourth quarter of 1948—which was published as a White Paper (Cmd. 7654) emphasized that the country's remarkable production achievement would not have been possible without U.S. economic assistance. The apparent adverse balance resulting from visible trade had continued to decrease from £103 million in the third quarter of 1948 to £78 million in the fourth quarter, and taken together with estimates of invisibles the country appeared to have approached closely to a position of overall balance in international payments—though not a dollar balance. This was due to the continued expansion of exports to a level little less than half as high again as in 1938, and to the continued restriction of imports. The level of production in this quarter was the highest ever recorded, being 26 per cent by volume above the average for 1946, and 22 per cent above the average for 1935–8. Under the intra-European payments scheme, drawing rights had been exercised by France (£17,467,989), Greece (£1,861,042), and Austria (£349,875), while the franc equivalent of £5,583,127 had been received from Belgium. Tables attached to the report giving details of the allocations received through the E.C.A. in 1948 showed that the bulk of the funds had gone to finance purchases in Canada.

Mr Bevin reviewing the international situation in a speech at Woolwich said that in all parts of the world a great *bloc* was taking shape based on collective security and acting together for economic development and peace. He was convinced that before long when the 'propa-

GREAT BRITAIN (*continued*)

ganda blasts' had blown it would be generally accepted that there were 'two great organisms in the world that must live together'.

*Palestine.* Mr McNeil told Parliament in answer to questions that reports had been received from the Transjordan authorities of the movement of a considerable force of Israeli troops southwards towards the Gulf of Aqaba, and of their penetration at one point into Transjordan territory and subsequent withdrawal. No British forces had been involved in any action. The Government were awaiting reports by U.N. observers. Israeli assurances to Britain (*see Palestine*).

Note on Bulgarian trials (*see Bulgaria*).

12 Mar.—Mr Eden in Singapore (*see Malaya*).

*Commonwealth.* In an article on the British Commonwealth appearing in the press, Dr Evatt emphasized the importance of the elements of 'kinship, kinship, and practical comradeship' fundamental to the association. It was essential that the British political tradition of flexibility should be maintained, resulting in a focus on broad lines of policy rather than on 'detailed forms and observances'. Change and independent initiative on the part of individual members should be welcomed as proof of the vitality of the group. The recent inclusion of three new members and the growing equality of members were tending to broaden the attitude of the whole group and to substitute a world outlook for one which had been predominantly European or Continental. This new global outlook was fully consistent with the creation of regional agreements either inside the Commonwealth or between members and other nations in different parts of the world and was also compatible in the fullest sense with the principles of the United Nations.

The War Office announced that the British detachment at Aqaba was being reinforced.

13 Mar.—Field-Marshal Slim in Egypt (*see Egypt*).

The Board of Trade announced that the President, Mr Harold Wilson, had written to the Soviet Ambassador accepting the Soviet suggestion that a trade agreement should be negotiated on a twelve-month basis.

Recall of diplomat in Sofia requested (*see Bulgaria*).

14 Mar.—The Minister to Transjordan, Sir Alec Kirkbride, arrived in London for consultations which, he said, were planned 'some weeks before the present situation in Aqaba arose'.

Gen. Carter took up his duties as special assistant to the U.S. Ambassador in connection with the development and co-ordination of the military assistance programme.

*Germany.* Mr Bevin received M. Schuman, French Foreign Minister, and Mr Douglas, the U.S. Ambassador, for informal discussions on reparations and prohibited and restricted industries in Germany.

15 Mar.—The General Council of the T.U.C. published a pamphlet condemning the disruptive tactics of Communists in the trade unions and threatening the reorganization of trades councils where necessary.

The rationing of clothes and textiles ended.

The Economic Survey for 1949, which was published as a White

Paper (Cmd. 7647) laid down four main objectives for the current year: further expansion of exports to Canada and the U.S.A., increased production, especially of coal, steel, textiles, and agriculture, continued efforts to bring down costs, and a continued battle against inflation and the threatened rise in the cost of living. The survey contained a breakdown of estimated industrial and agricultural production, together with plans for capital investments, the balance of payments, export targets, etc.

Mr Mayhew, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, returned from the U.S.A.

16 Mar.—*Berlin*. 'Neutral' Committee's report (*see Security Council*). A statement issued by the Government said that the Committee's proposals had been an 'ingenious technical attempt to adapt their terms of reference to the new political situation created by the split in the Berlin administration'. Soviet acceptance of the draft proposals had been subject to important amendments 'designed to increase the degree of Soviet interference in the day-to-day administration of currency and trade in the western sectors and to twist the Committee's plan to enable the Soviet authorities to gain a stranglehold on the economic life of these sectors'. The British and French experts while accepting the draft proposals had also put forward detailed amendments and after studying the U.S. counter-proposals had commended them to the Committee as an 'interim solution which would have given provisional protection to the interests of all parties and would have opened the way, if the blockade of Berlin had thereby been lifted, to direct negotiations between the four occupying Powers for a lasting settlement of the problems of Berlin and Germany as a whole'.

Note on German prisoners (*see U.S.S.R.*).

Mr McNeil told Parliament that a review of events in Bulgaria, Hungary, and Rumania in the eighteen months just expired since the peace treaties came into force showed that there had been violations of the human rights, military, and economic clauses by all three Governments. Whenever the British or U.S. representatives in any of the three countries had tried to invoke the treaty by calling a meeting of the representatives of the three allied Powers with a view to concerting action the Soviet representative had refused to attend. The Government had felt for some time past that no useful purpose could be served by renewing these attempts. The Foreign Secretary wished, however, to make clear that the Government fully reserved their rights to invoke the treaty machinery in future. A new machinery had become operative at the end of the eighteen-months' period which provided that any of the signatories, together with the country affected, could ask for a commission of two people, with an independent chairman, to be set up. If one country failed to agree to the independent chairman, either country could ask the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make such an appointment.

*Germany*. Mr Bevin held further conversations with M. Schuman and the U.S. Ambassador on Germany.

Mr Bevin received Sir Alec Kirkbride.

GREECE. 6 Mar.—The General Staff announced that the army had attacked a rebel brigade on the Kerdyllia range inflicting 500 casualties including 140 killed. In the Pelopennese a rebel formation had been annihilated.

7 Mar.—*Macedonia*. A rebel broadcast announced that the Council of the Macedonian National Liberation Front had decided at a meeting early in February to increase its propaganda in Northern Greece in favour of an independent Macedonia. It had also been agreed that a further meeting should be held in March to proclaim the union of the three Macedonias as an autonomous Republic and to call on all Slav Macedonians for a 'complete rising'.

9 Mar.—Field-Marshal Slim, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, arrived in Athens on a short visit.

*Macedonia*. It was learned that the Communist Party had denied being party to the scheme for unifying the three Macedonias.

11 Mar.—*Macedonia*. The newspaper *Kairioi*, published by the son of M. Tsaldaris, appealed in an article to Marshal Tito to join forces with Greece 'to face common dangers'.

M. Rendis, Minister of Public Order, stated that a plot had been discovered in Athens to murder Gen. Van Fleet, Chief of the U.S. military mission, and senior Greek officials. The plot had been ordered by the Communist Party and organized in such a way as to throw blame on the loyalists and the Government.

12 Mar.—M. Rendis stated that he had been contacted by some Communists who had declared that in their opinion the international Communist leadership had deceived and sacrificed them by inciting them to armed struggle for the 'imperialistic purposes' of a descent to Salonika and the Aegean. They said further that the Bulgarians were planning to enter southern Serbia and to rouse the Bulgarophile population against Tito. If he were defeated Greece would have to face a strong and well-organized army.

HUNGARY. 5 Mar.—M. Rakosi, Deputy Premier, addressing the Central Committee of the Communist Party announced a purge of all parties and organizations of the National Front.

7 Mar.—Exchange of Notes on frontier incidents (*see Yugoslavia*).

8 Mar.—The secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party announced that in a 'revision' of the membership of the Workers' Party about 170,000 people had been dismissed and another 120,000 reclassified as probationary members.

11 Mar.—It was learned that Parliament had deprived M. Barankovics of his nationality and confiscated his property. Two members of the Christian Women's Party had been deprived of their Parliamentary immunity for having allegedly organized a plot against the Republic with the approval of Cardinal Mindszenty. A warrant for their arrest had been issued.

It was learned that the Government had ratified the Danube agreement.

16 Mar.—British and U.S. statements on treaty violations (*see Great Britain and United States*).



ICELAND. 5 Mar.—Nordic Conference in Copenhagen (*see Denmark*).

13 Mar.—Foreign Minister in Washington for discussions on the Atlantic pact (*see United States*).

16 Mar.—Invitation to join the Atlantic Pact (*see United States*).

INDIA. 4 Mar.—It was learned that the Constitution-making Committee of the Constituent Assembly had passed a resolution to hold a general election as early as possible in 1950.

6 Mar.—Pandit Nehru, Prime Minister, told a press conference that he had had to refuse an invitation by President Truman to visit the U.S.A. owing to pressure of work.

7 Mar.—Following a general one-day token strike called by the Bombay provincial trades union congress 'in sympathy with railway labour', sixteen people were arrested in Bombay and eighteen at Surat, 100 miles to the north.

8 Mar.—Pandit Nehru said in a speech to Parliament that association with the Commonwealth could only be considered in terms of co-operation between independent nations and that in accordance with the programme laid down by the Government the country would soon become an independent Republic. Such co-operation was preferable to any form of binding alliance and it was the Government's policy to keep aloof from blocs. On the subject of French and Portuguese settlements he said that though the country wanted to avoid conflict, the only future for such foreign possessions was complete integration with India.

9 Mar.—Security measures were taken throughout the country to forestall Communist plans for a national strike of railway, postal, and telegraph workers. Services remained normal everywhere except on a section of the Baroda State railway and the only incidents reported were in Calcutta when home-made bombs were thrown at a train and a police station.

13 Mar.—Delhi discussions on Kashmir (*see Kashmir*).

INDO-CHINA. 8 Mar.—Viet Nam agreement (*see France*).

INDONESIA. 6 Mar.—It was learned that Dr Soekarno, President of the Republic, had informed the Dutch authorities that he could not accept their invitation to the round-table Conference at the Hague so long as the Republican Government had not been re-established at Jogjakarta.

12 Mar.—Gen. Soedirman, the Republican Army chief, said in a proclamation that he had returned to his armed forces and would continue to fight. 'We must intensify our struggle.'

13 Mar.—About 500 heavily armed Republicans were reported to have attacked Soekaboemi, fifty-five miles south of Batavia.

14 Mar.—Mortar fire was heard in the direction of Buitenzorg, thirty miles south of Batavia. It was learned that Dutch headquarters had admitted heavy fighting in East, Central, and Western Java.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS. 10 Mar.—During a three-day conference at Bournemouth of representatives of the I.T.S.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS (*continued*)

to discuss proposals arising from the breakdown of negotiations with the W.F.T.U. in September 1948 (*see Vol. IV, p. 624*), it was agreed to set up a co-ordinating committee of nine with temporary headquarters in London. All trade unions affiliated to the I.T.S. were to be advised to hold aloof from any conference convened by the W.F.T.U.

**ITALY. 3 Mar.**—The first 'Free Emilia' radio was reported to have made a half-hour transmission.

Dr Evatt, Australian Minister for External Affairs, arrived in Rome and after being received by the Pope met Count Sforza and other Ministers.

**4 Mar.**—*North Atlantic Defence.* The executive Council of the Saragat Social Democratic Party voted by eight to seven against joining the proposed pact. The Council also rejected a proposal by Signor Saragat that the country should accept any defensive guarantees which might be offered by the U.S.A.

It was learned that Signor Lombardo, Minister for Industry, had written to the Social Democratic Unions in Modena and Emilia stigmatizing their go-slow tactics as 'monstrous sabotage of Italian recovery and a crime against the workers'.

**7 Mar.**—The Saragat Socialists decided that differences within the party should be deliberated at a national congress in Rome on 1 June. Signor Mondolfo, of the centre faction, was elected secretary of the Party.

The P.S.I. (Nenni Socialist Party) received a letter from the International Socialist Conference containing a 'last appeal . . . to change their policy of subjection to world Communism and to join their comrades in the Socialist camp', and warning them that if no such change were made by 20 March they would be expelled from the International Socialist movement.

Invitation to conference on Council of Europe (*see Western Union*).

**8 Mar.**—After hearing a report by the Foreign Minister, Count Sforza, on the international situation and recent developments in foreign policy, the Council of Ministers unanimously endorsed his work and agreed that it aimed at 'consolidating peace and national security'.

**9 Mar.**—Signor Giampietro, Finance Minister of the Republic set up in the north under the German occupation, was arrested in Milan charged with having handed over Treasury funds to Mussolini in the spring of 1945.

*North Atlantic Defence.* At a meeting with the Prime Minister, Signor de Gasperi, the Christian Democratic senators and deputies assured him of their support on the question of the pact.

**10 Mar.**—A letter signed by the secretary of the P.S.I. which was published in the press rejected the ultimatum of the International Socialist Conference.

**11 Mar.**—*North Atlantic Defence.* Signor de Gasperi told the Chamber that the Council of Ministers had unanimously agreed, in principle, that the country should join the pact and participate in the discussions

on the final phases of the negotiations. After outlining the nature of the pact he said it would not involve automatic intervention, for Parliament would be consulted before its application. The Government did not intend to ask for a formal revision of the peace treaty 'for we are certain that our sacrosanct claims will be heard and granted, as they were over Trieste'.

12 Mar.—Communists demonstrated in Rome against the pact and industrial workers in many towns downed tools to listen to speeches of protest.

14 Mar.—*North Atlantic Defence*. Twelve policemen and three civilians were injured in Naples during Communist demonstrations against the pact. Demonstrations also took place in Turin and Milan where twenty arrests were made. Signor di Vittorio, Secretary General of the Confederation of Trade Unions, told correspondents in Rome that he did not intend to propose a strike but favoured launching a manifesto inviting the workers to hold peaceful demonstrations against the pact.

15 Mar.—*North Atlantic Defence*. A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Confederation of Labour agreed that the Atlantic Pact would create the danger of war, and decided to issue a manifesto appealing against joining any military coalition and to invite responsible political leaders of Italy to propose an agreement for permanent peace with all nations. Signor Parri, the Republican trade union leader, walked out of the meeting after warning them that if they organized demonstrations against the pact they would risk splitting the trade union movement.

Eighteen people, including seven policemen, were injured in demonstrations against the pact at Lecco.

16 Mar.—Invitation to join Atlantic Pact (*see United States*).

*North Atlantic Defence*. A protracted debate on the pact, begun on 12 March, included a speech by Signor Nenni who accused the Government of betraying all their pledges not to commit the country to military engagements, and demanded that ratification of Italy's adhesion should be submitted to a popular referendum. If the Government signed the pact, which was simply another Anti-Comintern pact with Mr Truman as Hitler, the Communists and left-wing Socialists would do all in their power to oppose it. Count Sforza said that Signor Togliatti by his recent interview had given the final push overboard to Italian neutrality, and accused the Communists of aiming to 'make an invasion from the East easier'. He denied Communist charges that there were in the pact any secret agreements or promises of bases and declared that none of the western Powers wanted war. Signor Togliatti denied these accusations but repeated the Communist 'declaration of war' on the pact and declared that they would refuse to recognize any vote by the Chamber approving it.

JAPAN. 7 Mar.—In a statement on economic conditions Mr Dodge, Gen. MacArthur's financial adviser, complained of the Government's irrational and unrealistic policies. Instead of concentrating on produc-

JAPAN (*continued*)

tion they were depending for the solution of their problems on foreign aid, internal subsidies, and wage and price increases—a sure road to inflation and national disaster. Constructive internal action was needed to make the country self-supporting and end all dependence on U.S. aid.

KASHMIR. 13 Mar.—It was learned that at the first of a series of meetings between civil and military representatives of India and Pakistan and members of the U.N. Commission at Delhi, agreement was reached on a provisional truce line. It was also learned that Pakistan had completed the withdrawal of the estimated 10,000 Pathan tribesmen in the western part of the province.

KOREA. 5 Mar.—Delegation of People's Republic in Moscow (*see U.S.S.R.*).

MALAYA. 3 Mar.—The Government issued part of a document, captured from a Communist camp in January, which said that the executive of the party was 'disheartened' at the way the 'revolution' was going. Their bases were being destroyed and the people were losing confidence in victory. Their campaign was badly planned and improperly directed.

5 Mar.—A British officer was killed by bandits while on patrol in Selangor.

7 Mar.—British forces burnt down six Communist jungle camps in Perak and Pahang. Another attack was launched against bandits in the mountains north of Kedah.

8 Mar.—Security forces rounded up 273 squatters in the Kluang district of Johore.

Terrorists killed a British officer driving on the main road near Kajang, fifteen miles south of Kuala Lumpur.

10 Mar.—One of five bandits was killed in an engagement with a British patrol near Johore Bahru. In the Kluang area of Johore three bandits were believed to have been drowned when their boat was sunk by Gurkhas. A special constable was shot dead in a cinema at Sungei Bakap in the province of Wellesley.

12 Mar.—Mr Eden arrived in Singapore for a short visit.

Four Guardsmen were killed by bandits in an encounter near Kajang, fifteen miles from Kuala Lumpur.

15 Mar.—The deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Siamese Air Force and his wife arrived in Singapore on a four-day visit as guests of the Commander-in-Chief, Air Command, Far East.

NETHERLANDS. 6 Mar.—Invitation to Hague Conference refused by Dr Soekarno (*see Indonesia*).

9 Mar.—*Indonesia*. It was learned that the round-table conference had been postponed for several weeks.

12 Mar.—*North Atlantic Defence*. The Government approved the text of the pact.

NEWFOUNDLAND. 6 Mar.—The Governor, Sir Gordon MacDonald, left for England.

NORWAY. 3 Mar.—*North Atlantic Defence*. Invitation to take part in the discussions (*see United States*). At a secret session of the Storting attended by 129 of the 150 members, it was agreed by 118 votes to accept the invitation. Only the 11 Communists present opposed it.

In a Note replying to the Soviet Note of 5 February the Government informed the Soviet Government of their decision to take part in the Atlantic Pact discussions and reaffirmed that they would neither co-operate in any policy of aggression nor grant military bases to foreign Powers so long as their country was not attacked or 'subjected to threats of attack'. The determination of what constituted a threatened attack would depend on facts and not on rumours and would be the sole responsibility of the Government. With regard to the suggested non-aggression pact, while desiring to preserve and strengthen the historical ties of friendship existing between the two countries, they saw no reason to reiterate in a special agreement the pledges of non-aggression already undertaken under the U.N. Charter.

4 Mar.—*North Atlantic Defence*. M. Gerhardsen, Prime Minister, said in a speech in the Storting that 'the greatest tragedy of our time is the fact that Soviet Russia opposes the reconstruction of western Europe'.

5 Mar.—M. Lange, Foreign Minister, who was suffering from a serious illness contracted while a political prisoner in Germany, was granted a long sick leave.

Nordic conference in Copenhagen (*see Denmark*).

7 Mar.—Invitation to conference on Council of Europe (*see Western Union*).

10 Mar.—Vice-Admiral Horve, Commander-in-Chief of the Navy, announced that he wished to resign his post on 1 May.

PAKISTAN. 7 Mar.—A resolution moved by the Prime Minister, Liaquat Ali Khan, in the Constituent Assembly for the framing of a Constitution asserted that the State, which derived its authority through the people from God, would be an independent Federation with full sovereign rights based on the democratic principles of Islam and providing religious and cultural freedom to the minorities. Other points in the programme were: freedom of expression, eradication of illiteracy and poverty, and the basing of policy on freedom and social justice.

13 Mar.—Statement by Burmese Ambassador (*see Burma*).

Delhi discussions on Kashmir (*see Kashmir*).

16 Mar.—It was learned that Mr Gordon-Walker, British Under-Secretary for Commonwealth Relations, had arrived at Karachi for discussions on matters arising from the October meeting of Commonwealth Premiers.

PALESTINE. 4 Mar.—M. Shertok, Foreign Minister, told a press conference in Tel Aviv that Israel was to protest to the Security Council against the presence of British troops at Aqaba though he admitted that these troops had not crossed the frontier. He denied reports of Jewish expansion and clashes in the Negeb. He also said that the Israeli delegation in Rhodes had asked Dr Bunche to intervene and stop 'incidents' on the borders of the Arab triangle (the central area held by Iraqi and Transjordan forces).

6 Mar.—It was announced that M. Shertok, Foreign Minister, had formally changed his name to Sharet.

7 Mar.—According to the Transjordan Defence Ministry an Israeli armoured column began to move south along the Transjordan frontier towards Aqaba.

8 Mar.—*Israel*. It was announced that the members of the new Government were: Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, M. David Ben-Gurion (Mapai); Rationing and Supply, Dr Dov Joseph (Mapai); Social Welfare, Rabbi J. M. Levin (U.R.F.); Labour and Insurance, Mme G. Myerson (Mapai); Religions, Rabbi J. L. H. Fishman (U.R.F.); Treasury, M. E. Kaplan (Mapai); Communications, M. D. Remez (Mapai); Justice, Dr P. Rosenblueth (Progressive); Police, M. B. Shitreet (Sephardi); Education and Culture, M. Z. Shazar (Mapai); Interior and Immigration, M. M. Shapiro (U.R.F.); Foreign Affairs, M. Moshe Sharet (Shertok) (Mapai). Their programme included a four-year development and absorption plan to double the population in that period by mass immigration. Foreign policy would be based on friendship with the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R.

According to reports reaching Amman the advancing Jewish column clashed with Arab Legion troops at Al-Ghamr, on the frontier about sixty miles north of Aqaba.

9 Mar.—The Arab Legion reported the repulse of two Israeli attacks at Ein Gharandal, just inside the Transjordan frontier about thirty miles north of Aqaba. Skirmishes were also reported at Ras al-Naqb, a police post on the Sinai border about six miles north of the gulf. An Israeli army spokesman denied that Jewish troops had crossed the Transjordan frontier.

10 Mar.—Arab Legion headquarters stated that a small Israeli armoured column had reached the Gulf of Aqaba at Umm Rashrash, a police post about two miles west of Aqaba. An Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman denied allegations that Jewish forces had crossed the Transjordan frontier. Dr Bunche warned Israel and Transjordan that he would charge them with a breach of the Security Council's cease-fire order if either side carried out military operations in the Aqaba area. It was learned that he had instructed Gen. Riley to increase the number of U.N. observers between the Dead Sea and Aqaba.

11 Mar.—*Armistice Talks*. A cease-fire agreement was signed by the Israeli and Transjordan delegations at Rhodes without prejudice to the 'rights, claims, interests, and positions' of either party relating to the armistice negotiations in progress or to an ultimate peace settlement. The cease-fire which came into force immediately did not affect the



triangle occupied by Iraqi troops since no reply had been received from Iraq as to whether Transjordan was authorized to negotiate for them.

M. Sharet (Shertok) stated in Tel Aviv that in reply to a British Note on the subject of reported Israeli troop movements near Aqaba the Government had assured Britain that, while maintaining their protest against the presence of British troops at Aqaba, no Israeli troops had entered Transjordan and that there was no question of any 'military initiative' against the British positions on the Transjordan side of the frontier. He also denied reports of clashes between Israeli troops and the Arab Legion. Except for a trivial incident, when a small Arab Legion patrol, trespassing on Israeli territory, let off a few shots and rapidly withdrew to its own side of the border, the Israeli and Transjordan forces had not met. There were no Arab Legion troops in the Israeli part of the eastern Negeb and, so far as he knew, there never had been. The Government held the view that by spreading these reports the Transjordan Government were either trying to accuse Israel in advance of events contemplated by themselves or to influence the armistice negotiations. The Government had requested Dr Bunche to send observers to the area. Mr McNeil's statement (*see Great Britain*).

On the orders of Dr Bunche a U.N. representative flew to Aqaba for investigations.

13 Mar.—It was learned in Tel Aviv that Israeli troops were in full possession of the Eilat region, a six-mile coastal strip of the Gulf of Aqaba. Reports reaching Amman said that an Israeli armoured column was encamped in a Wadi midway between the Dead Sea and the Red Sea, and was sending out continuous patrols. An Israeli military spokesman in Tel Aviv described the troop movements as a regrouping of forces following the armistice.

14 Mar.—Report on Arab refugees (*see Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization*).

Glubb Pasha's statement (*see Transjordan*).

15 Mar.—It was learned that the Government had protested to Dr Bunche about alleged major changes on the central front which involved the replacement of Iraqi troops in the Arab triangle by Arab Legion forces. This move was a violation of the truce which allowed for normal replacements but forbade the substitution of the army of one sovereign State for that of another. Iraq was believed to have taken this action to avoid negotiating with the Jews.

Statement by Transjordan Prime Minister (*see Transjordan*).

16 Mar.—*Armistice Talks*. It was learned that the Israeli and Transjordan delegations had agreed on an armistice line for the Jerusalem sector.

PAN-AMERICA. 15 Mar.—The committee on dependent territories set up under a resolution of the Bogotà conference held its first meeting at Havana attended by twelve of the twenty-one Republics.

PARAGUAY. 5 Mar.—According to reports current in Asuncion members of the Colorado National Party had started a revolution and

PARAGUAY (*continued*)

had taken several towns near the capital. Another report said that President Lopez had dissolved Parliament in preparation for the April elections.

PERSIA. 3 Mar.—It was learned that the trial by court-martial of fourteen leaders of the Tudeh Party had begun. They were charged with organizing a party to overthrow the Government and conspiring for the secession of part of the country.

4 Mar.—It was announced that the Foreign Office had recently protested to the Soviet Ambassador about Soviet radio propaganda likely to injure the good relations between the two countries.

9 Mar.—A Government spokesman announced that foreign correspondents who sent out messages likely to endanger national security or to embarrass national policy would be warned and, on repeating the offence, would be expelled. M. Novohatny, of the Soviet Tass Agency, had already been warned on account of a dispatch regarding the suppression of the Tudeh Party.

10 Mar.—It was learned that agreement had been reached for the continued operation of the Imperial Bank whose concession had expired at the end of January.

14 Mar.—Ambassador in Washington on Soviet pressure (*see United States*).

PERU. 13 Mar.—It was learned that Gen. Odria, leader of the military régime, had refused a request that leaders of the outlawed Aprista Party should leave the country.

POLAND. 7 Mar.—The preliminary national defence Budget for 1949 which was presented to the Assembly provided for the expenditure of £35 million compared with £22 million in 1948. Three-quarters of this sum would go to the Army which would be trained in 1949 according to methods perfected by the Soviet Army.

PORTUGAL. 13 Mar.—The Supreme Tribunal announced that Marshal Carmona had been re-elected President having obtained 941,863 votes in the recent elections as compared with the 4,789 votes of Gen. de Matos.

15 Mar.—Statement by Washington Embassy on the Government's attitude to the Atlantic Pact (*see United States*).

Eight persons were sentenced to short terms of imprisonment on charges of subversive propaganda.

16 Mar.—Invitation to join the Atlantic Pact (*see United States*).

RUMANIA. 16 Mar.—British and U.S. statements on treaty violations (*see Great Britain and United States*).

SIAM. 4 Mar.—Thongin Phuriphat, Thongplaew Cholaphum, and Chamlong Daoruang, former Cabinet Ministers, and Thawin Udon, a

former member of Parliament, who had been arrested on charges of plotting against the Government were killed by the police 'while attempting to escape'. (All four had been active in the war-time anti-Japanese resistance movement and supporters of the fugitive Pridi Panomyong.)

15 Mar.—Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Air Force in Singapore (*see Malaya*).

SOUTH AFRICA. 7 Mar.—Durban police dispersed a crowd of over 1,000 Africans who were alleged to have gathered in a threatening attitude in an Indian shopping area.

It was learned that Gen. de Guingand, Field-Marshal Montgomery's war-time Chief of Staff, was leading a study group preparing a report on strategy and resources of Africa south of the Sahara. In a speech to the Institute of International Affairs he emphasized the importance of Africa to western democracy and deplored the lack of co-ordination between African territories.

10 Mar.—The Treasury announced the 'drastic curtailment' of all transfer of funds to non-sterling countries, owing to the heavy drain on gold reserves.

12 Mar.—Sir Percivale Liesching, Permanent Under-Secretary for Commonwealth Relations, arrived in Capetown from London for discussions on 'matters arising from the October meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers'.

16 Mar.—Mr Havenga, Finance Minister, presenting his Budget to Parliament said that it was not true that the country was heading for bankruptcy. They still had a statutory reserve of £36 million in gold and free reserves of £90 million also in gold. The import control measures had been necessary because overseas payments must be reduced to £250 million in 1949—compared with £476 million in 1948—if the Union was to live within its income.

SPAIN. 4 Mar.—Air Force mission in Germany (*see Germany*).

10 Mar.—Three Communists were sentenced to death for terrorism and nine others to long terms of imprisonment by a court-martial in Madrid.

SWEDEN. 5 Mar.—Nordic conference in Copenhagen (*see Denmark*).

7 Mar.—Invitation to conference on Council of Europe (*see Western Union*).

9 Mar.—Gen. Swedlund, chief of the Defence Staff, made a speech criticizing the Government's neutrality policy. A military alliance would not only ensure foreign aid in case of war but would also give the country the advantage of the Great Powers' military and scientific research and enable her to get deliveries from abroad, 'failing which our power of resistance will rapidly dwindle'. He pointed out the danger that would arise if the Atlantic Pact Powers occupied bases in Norway in the event of a threat of war, while the Russians under the Finnish-Soviet pact pushed their way across Finland.

SWEDEN (*continued*)

14 Mar.—A Note was received from the Soviet Government reiterating charges made in their Note of 28 February about the alleged terrorization of Baltic refugees who wished to return home. The Government was requested to 'cease persecuting Soviet citizens . . . and to release from prison the illegally held Soviet citizen E. Suurvaeli' (an Estonian who had been arrested for espionage).

16 Mar.—Gen. Jung, the Commander-in-Chief, stressed in a speech in Stockholm the importance of Swedish rearmament for the security of Scandinavia and the need to obtain supplies from the west. The country's freedom from alliances must in no circumstances be allowed to lead to isolation from the western Powers. 'Further sharpening of the international situation might force upon Sweden complete reconsideration of her position'.

TRANSJORDAN. 8 Mar.—Report of frontier clashes (*see Palestine*).

9 Mar.—It was learned that the British Minister had been informed of Jewish military movements in the eastern Negeb in the direction of Aqaba. Report of Jewish frontier breach (*see Palestine*).

10 Mar.—Jewish denial of frontier breaches and Dr Bunche's warning (*see Palestine*).

12 Mar.—British announcement on reinforcements (*see Great Britain*). British reinforcements began landing at Aqaba.

14 Mar.—British Minister in London (*see Great Britain*).

Gen. Glubb Pasha, Commander of the Arab Legion, told a British correspondent in Amman that he had few forces in the eastern Negeb because King Abdullah, the Government, and the Arab Legion believed that Israel's assurances of its peaceful intentions were sincere.

15 Mar.—The Prime Minister, Tawfiq Pasha Abu'lhuda, told a press conference that the Government had the right under the Anglo-Transjordan treaty to call sufficient British troops to defend all the frontiers if necessary. British forces had not interfered in the recent Jewish movements because the Jews had not crossed the frontier intentionally. But by occupying Umm Rashrash and the Palestinian Red Sea Coast the Jews had once more challenged the Security Council's orders.

TRIESTE. 7 Mar.—Field-Marshal Slim, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, arrived on a visit to British troops.

TURKEY. 7 Mar.—It was learned that in answer to an enquiry by the Soviet Ambassador about a rumoured Mediterranean pact, the Foreign Office had stated that such a pact would be purely defensive and that the Government would eventually be prepared to join it.

## UNITED NATIONS

## BALKANS COMMISSION

4 Mar.—In a message cabled to M. Lie, Secretary-General, the committee drew attention to the plight of the Greek refugees who had

increased in the past two years from less than 20,000 to nearly a million and who were living in crowded security centres on a meagre State relief. The World Health Organization had expressed fears for the serious health problems arising from overcrowding and malnutrition.

9 Mar.—A memorandum submitted by Greek liaison officers drew attention to reliable information of 'feverish military preparations on the Bulgarian side of the frontiers of eastern Macedonia and Thrace'.

#### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

7 Mar.—The Soviet delegate, elaborating his resolution for an international enquiry into working conditions in all countries, proposed that a body should be set up composed of trade union representatives in the proportion of one for every million members to study data supplied by Governments, trade unions, and 'workers organizations'. In reply to questions he said that the body would not have the right to enter countries to make local investigations. Several delegates declared that the proposal evaded the issue of forced labour and it was defeated by 15 votes to 3 (U.S.S.R., Poland, White Russia.) A U.S. proposal to ask the I.L.O. to look into the question of forced labour was adopted.

#### EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

14 Mar.—A report issued on the Palestinian Arab refugees estimated their number as 817,000 of whom over 700,000 urgently needed assistance. 480,000 were in Arab Palestine, 100,000 in Syria, 100,000 in the Lebanon, 75,000 in Transjordan, and 40,000 in Israel.

#### SECURITY COUNCIL

4 Mar.—*Israel*. Israel's application for membership was approved by 9 votes to 1 (Egypt) with one abstention (Britain). The British delegate explained that he was unable to vote failing clarification of the Jewish attitude to the Council's resolutions on Jerusalem and the Arab refugees.

10 Mar.—*Indonesia*. Dr van Royen (Netherlands) appealed to the Council not to stick rigidly to their formula concerning the restoration of a Republican rule in Jogjakarta which would be interpreted as a betrayal by the federalists and would lead to a recrudescence of militarism and extremist activities. The Dutch aims and those of the Council were essentially the same; only the means were different. The proposed round-table conference would draw up all arrangements for the transfer of sovereignty in a few months, and for the simultaneous establishment of a Netherlands-Indonesian Union. The heads of the federal States had unanimously accepted the invitation. Mr Austin (U.S.A.) reaffirmed the justice of the resolution of 28 January and said that unless the Republican Government were allowed to resume responsibility in Jogjakarta they could not be expected to undertake negotiations. If agreement could be reached on this 'preliminary step', the proposed Hague Conference would be consistent with the purposes of the Council's resolution. M. Palar (Indonesia) spoke of the precarious position of the

SECURITY COUNCIL (*continued*)

Dutch forces and threatened that if they continued their 'so-called mopping-up operations' cities like Batavia and Soerabaya would be subjected to guerrilla penetration. If however the Dutch re-established the Republican Government they might be prepared to take part in a round-table conference.

11 *Mar.—Indonesia.* A proposal put forward by Gen. McNaughton (Canada) and supported by Dr Tsiang (China) suggested that the Netherlands and the Republic of Indonesia should hold exploratory discussions under the auspices of the U.N. Commission on possible conditions under which the round-table conference might profitably be held.

14 *Mar.—Palestine.* A report received from Dr Bunche stated that an Israeli garrison of 150 men and 25 vehicles had occupied Umm Rashrash, inside the Palestine frontier, on the Gulf of Aqaba. There was no confirmation of reports that the advance had been made through Egyptian territory but Israeli aircraft had been observed in the region of the Transjordan frontier and on 11 March a military column had been seen moving north up the Wadi Araba. The only fighting so far reported had been a brief exchange of shots in the region of Al-Ghamr before the signing of the Rhodes cease-fire.

*Indonesia.* Sir Terence Shone (Britain) supported the Canadian proposal. It was imperative to reach a settlement and the Hague proposals, whatever their motives, were generous and statesmanlike. With regard to the Dutch failure to restore the Republican Government the British Government shared the view of the U.S. Government that military action could not be allowed to eliminate one of the parties to the dispute. M. Palar (Indonesia) said that in the absence of sanctions the dispute might have to be settled on the battlefield. M. Malik (U.S.S.R.) accused the Netherlands of committing genocide in Indonesia and opposed participation by the U.N. Commission in the proposed Hague Conference. Dr van Royen (Netherlands) accepted the Canadian proposal.

16 *Mar.—Berlin.* The Chairman issued the report of the 'neutral' Committee which showed that a tentative solution to the currency dispute had been drawn up based on three recommendations: (1) the introduction and continued use of the Soviet Zone mark as the sole currency for Berlin under four-Power supervision; (2) agreement in advance by the four Powers on the maximum number of issues, so as to reduce as far as possible subsequent discretionary decisions likely to need four-Power assent; (3) responsibility for carrying out arrangements to devolve to the maximum degree upon the municipal and banking institutions in the Sectors under the control of the Sector authority. This plan had been sent to the four Powers on 22 December. The 'general framework' of the proposals had been accepted by the U.S.S.R., Great Britain, and France as a basis for discussion, but rejected by the U.S.A. who had declared that the split in Berlin had gone too far to make four-Power Control over currency and trade possible. A U.S. counter-proposal suggested that the Soviet mark



should be introduced throughout the city but under exclusively western control in the western Sectors. The U.S.S.R. had rejected this plan as being outside the Committee's terms of reference, which specified quadripartite control of currency and trade. After further discussions the three western Powers had agreed jointly to reject the Committee's proposals and support the U.S. plan. The 'neutrals' finally reported failure to the Council on 11 February. British Government statement (*see Great Britain*).

*Indonesia.* The French and Norwegian delegates supported the Canadian proposal. Dr van Royen appealed to M. Palar to reconsider his attitude and explained that the Dutch Government objected to restoring the Jogjakarta Government because the Republicans were striving for a unitarian State under their domination, and during the interim period their unruly and aggressive army would have little difficulty in imposing its rule over all the other regions. If the Jogjakarta Government were restored before the transfer of sovereignty the Republic might, from the outset, impose its hegemony on the whole of Indonesia. The President of the Council, in the name of Cuba, called on the Dutch for immediate compliance with the Council's resolution and the Australian delegate expressed the fear that preliminary discussions would lead to a compromise in which the Republicans would negotiate under duress.

*Palestine.* The Arab League and Iraq protested to the Council that 500 Arab civilians had been expelled from Israeli-controlled territory and had been fired on by Israeli machine gunners as they left in the direction of the Iraqi front.

UNITED STATES. 3 *Mar.*—President Truman announced the resignation of Mr Forrestal, Secretary of Defence, with effect from 31 March. He would be succeeded by Mr Louis Johnson, who was Assistant Secretary of War in 1937-40.

*Germany.* The State Department announced that the office of Assistant Secretary of State for the occupied areas had been eliminated and replaced by an office of German and Austrian Affairs under the directorship of Mr Robert Murphy.

*North Atlantic Defence.* As a result of a communication from the Norwegian Government the seven Powers formally invited Norway to take part in the discussions.

It was announced that the State Department had sent a Note to the Soviet Government rejecting the protests in the Soviet Note of 24 February as a 'distortion of facts' and supporting Gen. Clay's request for the withdrawal of the repatriation mission in Frankfurt.

4 *Mar.*—*North Atlantic Defence.* The Norwegian Ambassador attended a meeting with representatives of the seven Powers.

*Havana Conference.* The State Department announced that the Government did not intend to send a representative to the 'American committee on dependent territories' called by the Bogotá conference, since they had grave doubts whether the committee could fulfil the task assigned it without endangering principles accepted in inter-

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American agreements or in the U.N. Charter. They might however wish to express their views on the committee's reports.

Mr Douglas in Germany (*see Germany*).

M. Gubitchev, a Soviet engineer attached to the U.N. Secretariat, was arrested in New York on charges of espionage.

6 Mar.—It was learned that Gen. Carter, formerly *aide* to Gen. Marshall when the latter was Secretary of State, had been appointed the State Department's special representative in London on the military assistance programme, with the rank of Minister.

7 Mar.—*European Recovery Programme*. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved the requested allocation of \$5,580 million for the following fifteen months.

8 Mar.—*North Atlantic Defence*. It was learned that the draft treaty had been sent to the Governments concerned for their approval.

9 Mar.—The Soviet Ambassador protested to Mr Acheson, Secretary of State, about the arrest of M. Gubitchev.

*North Atlantic Defence*. An official stated in Washington that the estimated cost to the nation of the programme for the first year of the alliance was between \$1,000 million and \$2,000 million.

10 Mar.—The Danish Foreign Minister, M. Rasmussen, arrived in Washington.

11 Mar.—Mr Royall, Secretary of the Army, published his annual report which showed that the strength of the army rose in December 1948 to 660,000—a record peace-time figure. The estimated strength in June 1949 would be 677,000.

*North Atlantic Defence*. The representatives of the eight Powers reached final agreement on the terms of the treaty.

Mr Acheson received M. Rasmussen.

E.R.P. The E.C.A. announced that an agreement had been signed with Eire to provide her with a loan of £7,250,000.

12 Mar.—*North Atlantic Defence*. Mr Acheson received M. Rasmussen.

Mr Forrestal issued a statement condemning extravagant and inaccurate reports about the potentialities of biological warfare. The Government were co-ordinating defence preparations against possible germ warfare but there was no factual basis for claims of the existence of a 'biological super-weapon'.

13 Mar.—*North Atlantic Defence*. The Icelandic Foreign Minister, M. Benediktsson, arrived in Washington for discussions on the pact. He said that his Government would not allow the establishment of foreign military bases on their territory in peacetime.

14 Mar.—Mr Acheson received the Persian Ambassador, who said later that he had told the Secretary of State that Soviet propaganda pressure on his country was increasing and was causing his Government great anxiety.

*North Atlantic Defence*. Mr Acheson received M. Benediktsson. M. Rasmussen had further conversations at the State Department.

Gen. Carter in London (*see Great Britain*).

*E.R.P.* The report of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee which was submitted to Congress unanimously recommended that the Bill amending the Economic Co-operation Act of 1948 be passed.

About 430,000 miners east of the Mississippi came out on strike for a fortnight in memory of miners killed or injured in 1948 and also in protest against the nomination of Dr James Boyd as director of the Federal Bureau of Mines.

15 Mar.—*North Atlantic Defence.* Mr Acheson held final discussions with M. Rasmussen.

M. Benediktsson had further talks at the State Department.

*North Atlantic Defence.* The Portuguese Embassy issued a statement recalling that Portugal had been one of the first countries to welcome the idea of an Atlantic pact and confirming that talks were proceeding in Lisbon and Washington to obtain 'additional information concerning the geographical amplitude of the pact and its reciprocal guarantees, including the territorial integrity of the participating countries'. The exclusion of Spain was regretted since her absence would weaken the role which the Iberian peninsula, as a strategic *bloc* of the highest importance, might be called to fulfil. The Government felt that a period of ten years, possibly extensible, would have been preferable for the duration of the pact. On the subject of bases they declared their decision not 'to accede to any international commitments which might tie them to the obligation of granting in peace-time military bases to a foreign Power. Less still, should the decision on such a course depend upon the mechanics of an agreement in which the views of other Powers might prevail. Such ideas would be entirely contrary to the principle which does not admit violation of national sovereignty'.

16 Mar.—*North Atlantic Defence.* The eight negotiating nations invited the Governments of Italy, Denmark, Iceland, and Portugal to join in the pact.

The State Department issued a statement to the press charging Bulgaria, Hungary, and Rumania of 'having flagrantly violated or failed to fulfil' obligations under their respective peace treaties and accusing the U.S.S.R. of having 'obstructed treaty implementation'.

Note on German prisoners (*see U.S.S.R.*).

*War Crimes.* Mr Royall, Secretary of the Army, ordered a review of the 'Malmédy massacre' case.

U.S.S.R. 3 Mar.—M. Vyshinsky, who had been staying in Carlsbad since January, was reported to have left for home.

U.S. reply to Soviet Note on repatriation of Soviet citizens (*see United States*).

Norwegian reply to proposal for non-aggression pact (*see Norway*).

4 Mar.—*Government Changes.* Moscow radio announced that M. Molotov had been replaced as Foreign Minister by his deputy M. Vyshinsky and that M. Mikoyan, Foreign Trade Minister, had been replaced by his deputy M. Menshikov. Both outgoing Ministers retained their posts as deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers.

5 Mar.—*Government Changes.* *Tass* announced that M. Gromyko,

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former Ambassador in Washington and permanent delegate to the United Nations, had succeeded M. Vyshinsky as first deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

M. Stalin received a delegation of the Korean People's Republic (North Korea), led by the Prime Minister, Kim ir Sen.

8 Mar.—*Government Changes*. Moscow radio announced that M. Yefremov had been appointed deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and replaced as Minister of the Machine-Tool Building Industry by M. Kostousov.

Reports reaching Warsaw stated that the Inner Defence Cabinet had been remodelled under the direct control of M. Molotov.

10 Mar.—*Budget*. M. Zverev, Finance Minister, presented the 1949 Budget estimates to the Supreme Soviet which provided for an income of 445,208 million roubles, and expenditure of 415,350 million roubles. Expenditure included 79,000 million roubles for defence, an increase of 12,900 million roubles on 1948 figures due to increased prices in heavy industry, 152,000 million roubles for national economy, and 119,000 million roubles for social and cultural enterprises.

13 Mar.—Trade negotiations with Britain (*see Great Britain*).

14 Mar.—*Government Changes*. The Supreme Soviet announced that M. Voznesensky, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and head of the Planning Commission, had been relieved of his duties, and replaced by M. Zaburov and that M. Golyakov, President of the Supreme Court, had been succeeded by M. Volin. Changes in the Praesidium of the Supreme Council were also announced.

15 Mar.—Moscow radio announced that the Supreme Soviet had approved a large scale reorganization of Ministries involving the merging of certain departments with similar responsibilities.

16 Mar.—*German prisoners*. The Government received Notes from the British, U.S., and French Governments rejecting charges made in a Soviet Note of 24 January that they were keeping back German prisoners in the guise of paid workers and proposing the establishment of an international inspecting body to inspect the conditions of German ex-prisoners of war in all the territories concerned, including the U.S.S.R. The British Note stressed the fact that the U.S.S.R. by retaining at least 200,000 prisoners had failed to implement the agreement of March 1947, and drew attention to the recent decline in the monthly repatriation figures. It also stated that there was no secret about the German ex-prisoners who had volunteered to work in Britain and the Middle East, many of whom had accepted the offer, open to all, of taking a holiday in Germany free of travel cost.

WESTERN UNION. 7 Mar.—The Permanent Commission sent invitations to the Governments of Denmark, Eire, Italy, Norway, and Sweden to attend a conference in London on the setting up of a Council of Europe.

14 Mar.—The Consultative Council met in London, on the suggestion of the British and French Governments, attended by the Foreign

Ministers and Defence Ministers of the five Powers and the Finance Ministers of certain of the countries.

15 Mar.—A statement issued at the end of the meeting said that the Council had considered the latest developments in connection with the proposed North Atlantic Pact, various aspects of the joint defence of the five Powers, measures to be taken in regard to the production and financing of military supplies and equipment, and the work of the Permanent Commission with regard to the Council of Europe. The reports of the Secretary-General on the social and cultural work carried out since the Council's last meeting were approved.

YUGOSLAVIA. 7 Mar.—It was learned in Belgrade that in a recent exchange of Notes between the Government and the Hungarian Government, each side had accused the other of provoking incidents on their common frontier.

8 Mar.—Reparations claims on Austria (*see Council of Foreign Ministers*).

10 Mar.—Four members of the 'Crusaders' — a subversive group — were sentenced to death for trying to poison pigs at a State pig farm in Slavonia.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 28 Inter-American Economic Conference, Buenos Aires.
- „ 29 I.R.O. General Council, Geneva.
- „ 31 Entry of Newfoundland into the Confederation of Canada.
- April — International Socialist Conference, Copenhagen.
- „ — Ministerial Conference on the setting up of a Council of Europe, London.
- „ 5 Further session of the U.N. General Assembly, Lake Success.
- „ 6 Economic Conference of the European Movement, London.
- „ 8 Meeting of Contracting Parties of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Annecy.
- „ 12 World Congress of Peace called by the International Liaison Committee of Intellectuals for Peace and the Women's International Democratic Federation, Paris.
- „ 21 Diplomatic Conference to frame an international treaty for protecting civilians in war time, Geneva.
- „ 19 Republic of Ireland Act comes into force.
- „ 26 Conference of Liberal Parties of countries taking part in Marshall Plan.
- May — South Pacific Commission, Noumea, New Caledonia.
- „ 29 U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America, Havana.
- June 8 I.L.O. Conference, Geneva.
- „ 13 F.A.O. Council, Paris.
- „ 20 U.N. World Health Assembly, Rome.
- „ 29 World Congress of World Federation of Trade Unions, Milan.
- Aug. 17 U.N. Conference on the conservation and utilization of the World's Resources, Lake Success.
- „ 21 General Assembly of Liberal International, Versailles.